



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Handwritten notes: *Argu*, *LR*, *\$1.04*

In re application of : Confirmation No. 9684  
Koji YOTSUMOTO : Docket No. 2001\_0034A  
Serial No. 09/765,274 : Group Art Unit 2634  
Filed January 22, 2001 : Examiner Cicely Q. Ware  
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Technology Center 2600

**REQUEST FOR A NEW OFFICE ACTION AND RESTART OF  
THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

An Office Action dated March 18, 2004 was received in the above-identified application. On the Office Action Summary form, it is noted that a shortened statutory period of one month was set. However, in accordance with M.P.E.P. §710.02(b), a shortened statutory period of not less than three months must be set for reply to any Office Action on the merits. The present Office Action constitutes an Office Action on the merits due the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Since this error is being brought to the attention of the Patent Office within one month of the mail date of the Office Action, the period for response is respectfully requested to be restarted as is required in M.P.E.P. § 710.06.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 23, 2004